The Case for the Calumet National Heritage Area

Mark Bouman – The Field Museum
William Peterman - Chicago State University (emeritus)
To begin ..... A couple of questions

WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?
WHAT AND WHERE IS THE CALUMET REGION?
National Heritage Areas (NHAs)

- Are designated by Congress as areas where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important story
  - do not affect private property rights
- Are managed by public-private partnerships.
- Are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development
- There are 49 NHAs in the US. First created in 1984
The Calumet Region

Map showing the locations of various cities and towns within the Calumet Region.

- Blue Island
- Whiting
- East Chicago
- Gary
- Portage
- Michigan City
- South Holland
- Chicago Heights
- Hobart
- Valparaiso
- Merrillville
- La Porte
Father Marquette and His Calumet
Since the late 1800’s the Calumet has been highly industrialized

Illinois Steel 1890 - Mouth of the Calumet River

BP Refinery in Whiting today
There is a rich industrial history in the region.

The Pullman Palace Car Factory

Proposed site of the Pullman National Historic Park
The Calumet Is a Region of Contrasts
There are places of scenic natural beauty, but there are also numerous brownfield sites

Powderhorn Lake and Marsh
Cook County Forest Preserve

Former Site of U.S. Steel
Southworks Complex
There are historic neighborhoods, well maintained, but there is also great need

Historic Row Houses, in the “town” of Pullman

Abandoned and derelict properties in Gary
The Calumet Region has attracted scientists and artists alike
Performance Art at the Dunes
1913-1917
Recent initiatives in the region date back to over half a century ago in Indiana

- 1952 – Save the Dunes Council formed
- 1966 – Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore created
- 1981 – Shirley Heinze Land Trust formed (now managing 1,300 acres of land in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties)
In Illinois, recent Calumet initiatives date to about 1980

1980

- Committee to Protect the (Van Vlissingen) Prairie (Marion Byrnes)
- Lake Calumet Study Committee (Audubon, Openlands, Izaak Walton League and Committee to Protect the Prairie)

1983 – 1989 – Battles to enact moratoria on landfills

- Hegewisch Organized to Protect the Environment (HOPE)
- People for Community Recovery (PCR)
- Citizens United to Reclaim the Environment (CURE)

1989 – Opposition to garbage incineration in the Calumet

- Southeast Environmental Task Force

1990-1992 Lake Calumet Airport Proposal

- Calumet Environmental Resource Center (CERC)
A Lake Calumet Ecological Park?

- 1992 – UIC Geographer, Jim Landing proposes a national “ecological” park for the Calumet
- 1993 – Calumet Ecological Park Association Formed
- 1998 – National Park Service undertakes a feasibility study for the ecological park
The Park Service rejects the idea of an ecological park but suggests the area is appropriate for historic area designation

- “Protection and public enjoyment of natural, cultural and recreational resources in the Calumet region would be possible through National Heritage Area designation”
- “Heritage area designation would afford the rare opportunity to revitalize an industrialized region and protect natural communities”
- “The National Park Service could facilitate coordination and provide technical assistance to the community”
Two key organizations formed in 1999

**Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership**

- Formed at the urging of the Calumet Government Working group
- Consisting of government, environmental, business and industrial, community-based, and academic organizations
- An Illinois Department of Natural Resources Ecosystem Partnership”
- Mission: to restore the natural environment of Lake Calumet and surrounding wetlands, interpret the region’s history, foster and sustainable economy, revitalize local communities, and protect environmental health

**Calumet Heritage Partnership**

- To identify, preserve, and reclaim the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the Calumet Region
- Encourage recognition of the Calumet Heritage Area
The boundaries of the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership were essentially adopted by the Millennium Reservere
Some of the Important Plans and Initiatives By Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partners

2000 – Calumet Land Use Plan (Joint Initiative of City of Chicago and State of Illinois)
2000, 2006, and 2010 – Calumet Research Summits
2001 Calumet Stewardship Initiative
2002 – Calumet Ecological Management Strategy
2002 – Lake Calumet Vision Plan
2004 – Calumet Task Force (Chicago Wilderness)
Activities of the Calumet Heritage Partnership

• Annual Bi-State Heritage Conferences
• Steel Heritage Initiative (Acme Steel Archive Project)
• Advocating for the Creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area
Major Planning Initiatives in both Indiana and Illinois have focused on the Calumet Region and Its Heritage

In Indiana work was progressing on a Marquette Plan

- 2005 – Phase I Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy (East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, and Whiting)
- 2008 – Phase II Extension East to Michigan State Line
- 2013 – Phase III Framework for Cultural and Historic Landmarks as Economic and Development Opportunities

While in Illinois the Millennium Reserve was created in 2011
Convened by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative
Sponsors
• The Field Museum
• Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
• ArcelorMittal
• Illinois Department of Natural Resources
• Legacy Foundation
• Chicago Park District
• NIPSCO
• One Region / One Vision for Northwest Indiana
• Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Calumet Summit Outcome

The highest rated “game changing idea” was to move work forward on a Calumet Heritage Area.
What is a National Heritage Area?

• Designated by Congress where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important story
  • NHAs do not affect private property rights
• Public-private partnerships
• Grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development
• Lived-in landscapes
• 49 NHAs in the US; the first created in 1984
National Heritage Areas (NHAs)
National Heritage Areas vs. National Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Heritage Area</th>
<th>National Park</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overlies existing features</td>
<td>A “separate” land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many landowners</td>
<td>Owned by NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locally managed</td>
<td>Operated by NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some govt. funding (often used for marketing)</td>
<td>Funded by NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can overlap National Parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What National Heritage Areas have been successful?

• The Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area has leveraged $350 million in regional investments from Federal, State, local, and private sources since 1999.

• The Essex National Heritage Area welcomes 2.7 million visitors annually to its 34 cities and towns in NE Massachusetts.

• Ohio and Essex NHAs overlap and interrelate with National Parks.
Why a Calumet National Heritage Area?

• An *environment* of unusual biodiversity
• An *economy* of heartland industry
• *Communities* of diversity, strength, and national leadership
• A *landscape* in which environment, economy, and community have mixed to stunning effect
CALUMET REGION
NORTHWEST INDIANA NORTHEAST ILLINOIS
The Fundament
Pottawatomie Occupance
--- 1830

POLITICAL BASE MAP AS OF 1950

Fig. 1. Pottawatomie occupancy in original and present geographic perspective. Indian trail and village data adapted from Scharf, Knotts, and original federal land survey plats and other sources. Fundament features compiled from forty-seven plats and accompanying notes of the original Federal land survey, integrated by present-day field observations by the author.
Calumet Ecological Park Feasibility Study

A Special Resource Study Conducted in the Calumet Region of Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana

August 1998

Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service Midwest Region
Cultural Resources with a Transportation Theme (from NPS *Calumet Ecological Park Feasibility Study*, 1998)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Significance Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cal-Sag Channel</td>
<td>Canal</td>
<td>Completed in 1922 to draw discharges from sewage treatment plant away from Lake Michigan, and to allow discharge into CS&amp;S Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincennes Trace</td>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Major trail on Illinois side of Calumet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauk Trail</td>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Most significant Indian trail through the region; principal E-W Indian route across the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS&amp;SB RR</td>
<td>Rail</td>
<td>Only remaining interurban rail in US. Enhanced by Insull to smooth utility load factor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. O’Brien Lock/Dam</td>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>Completed in 1960 to control Calumet R. flow and to host larger barge traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge St. Gary</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>One of a few double cantilevered bridges remaining in country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanute Hill at Miller Beach</td>
<td>Field &amp; monument</td>
<td>1896 Chanute glider experiments; 700 successful flights; nationally significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Selected Other Cultural Resources
(from NPS *Calumet Ecological Park Feasibility Study*, 1998)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USX South Works</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Ore walls and slips remain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Line Generating Plant</td>
<td>Industrial/ utility</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>“Cathedral of power”; GAPW architects; transport of coal and electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullman plant, Hammond</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>Industry/labor</td>
<td>Strike site?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard refinery</td>
<td>Refinery</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Transport of raw materials; Burton cracking process 1909 -- gasoline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Bridge works</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Major source of pre-fab bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USX Gary Works</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Transport of raw materials; least-cost location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullman Historic District</td>
<td>N’hood/Ind/Commerce</td>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Railcar manufacture/labor in transport sector/strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Lake NIKE site</td>
<td>Missile</td>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>Transport! Also in Portage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Labor history

• Republic Steel Memorial Day Massacre, 1937
• Pullman Strike, 1894
• 1919 Steel strike
• A. Philip Randolph
• Trumbull Park homes integration struggles
Why create a Calumet National Heritage Area now?

• The 2013, the Calumet Summit with over 200 participants from across the Calumet region placed creating a Calumet National Heritage Area as its top priority.

• The National Parks Conservation Association and The Field Museum recently published a report titled “The Future of the Indiana Dunes,” which recommends that creating a NHA for the Calumet Region is a “meaningful way to draw tourism and interest to the region.”

• In 1998, the National Park Service conducted a study for a Calumet Ecological Park, concluding that the Calumet region should consider candidacy for a National Heritage Area.

• A Calumet Heritage Area could articulate well with other regional plans, including the Marquette Plan, the Millennium Reserve, and the Pullman National Park.
Value of a Calumet National Heritage Area for the Region

- Increase visibility by “branding” the region
- Stimulate economic development—a recent study concludes that every $1.00 of federal investment to a NHA generates $5.50
- Cultivate environmental and cultural preservation
- Foster education and stewardship of natural and cultural resources
- Create a process for bi-state dialogue and management
Network Calumet: A Heritage Resources Journey

Saturday, October 26, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Pullman State Historic Site
Historic Clock Tower Factory Building
11057 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois

Sponsored by the Calumet Heritage Partnership, with additional support provided by:
The Calumet Region

Why Calumet?

- 1.8 million people
- 42,000 acres of protected land
- Unparalleled confluence of natural and cultural diversity
- A compelling landscape of industry and nature
- The table is set...